

To: Senator LeBeau
Representative Berger
Members of the Commerce Committee

Date: March 14, 2012

RE: **Support for Raised House Bill No.5466: AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL ENTERPRISE BUSINESSES**

I am writing in strong support of Raised House Bill No. 5466.

I support this bill because:

- I believe Social Enterprise Business is the wave of the future.
- It will help to create and sustain jobs in the State of Connecticut.
- A benefit of Social Enterprise businesses is that they not only create jobs, they help solve community problems without burdening taxpayers – an incomparable value
- This concept and form of business fits the ideals and values of today's young (and many not so young) business people, who want to have a positive impact through their businesses while addressing today's social issues (witness Tom's Shoes, Newman's Own, Walker Systems, and many others).
- This will help to retain, and I believe attract, some of the brightest and best graduates since Social Enterprise business is so attractive to them
- Social Enterprise businesses tend to stay local instead of chasing tax breaks wherever they may appear best, because "profit" is not their only motive and motivator.
- I first became aware of "social enterprise" business while attending a conference at Yale University 4 years ago, and was amazed at how conscious of and committed to this concept so many of the young people attending were.
- If Connecticut does not embrace and support this concept, we will fall behind the increasing number of states who already have passed or are considering such legislation, and become uncompetitive with other states (and also countries).
- Over this past weekend, I discussed Social Enterprise business with a friend from the UK who was visiting; she confirmed how established this form of business is there – in fact, she stated "It is the wave of the future", something I have been saying and believed the past four years.
- This legislation provides the groundwork and facilitates the ability for social enterprise business owners to match their values with their business form or structure -- easily – an attractive benefit to such individuals.

Thank you for your consideration and do not hesitate to contact me with questions.

Sincerely,

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